

City of Corunna  
Special Meeting of  
Thursday, June 27, 2002

Present: Jessen, Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

Absent: Corey.

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Judy Horton; Shirley Sanderson; Chief Scott Johnson, Fire Department; Helen Granger, The Independent; Mary Buginsky; Joe Williams; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Joe Williams stated he was at the meeting to address three issues that he thought were going to be addressed tonight. He further stated he thought it was irresponsible and was appalled at the mishandling of the negotiations regarding the city clerk and chief of police. It is also appalling that the process was apparently overlooked. He also stated the debate is not over whether or not the clerk or police chief should have to pay for their benefits. The debate is whether the clerk or police chief should have been told prior to the council decision because it was his understanding the clerk and police chief were not notified. Mr. Williams advised if this was not done to the city manager and director of public works, then why should the city clerk and police chief have to pay 10 percent. This seems to be a little discriminatory. He further advised if the city council is not going to utilize labor negotiations in the full context then each individual in question should negotiate with the entire council and then allow the council to review what should or should not be negotiated instead of wasting the people's time by having meeting after meeting since this is suppose to be the negotiation process. Mr. Williams stated he wanted to publicly commend the mayor for his veto on the issue of requiring people to pay to park during the Fourth of July Celebration. It is ludicrous to invite people to the community and then charge people \$5.00 to park to make a little money. He further stated the streetscape project was a wonderful thing for the community, but the problem he has is with the traffic flow. One of the primary reasons for the streetscape was to relieve the traffic flow problems, but the traffic problems have worsened. He also stated if a person drives southbound on Shiawassee Street to Corunna Avenue, the person cannot make a right turn because there is no right turn lane, and traffic backs up to the bridge. If a person travels northbound on Shiawassee Street to Corunna Avenue, the person has the opportunity to turn right or left, but traffic still backs up to the barbershop and the Town Tub. Mr. Williams asked if the city is going to address this problem or put this problem on the back of the Michigan Department of Transportation since these are the people who spent countless hours on the planning process. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan thanked Mr. Williams for his comments and advised him that his points were well taken. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan advised in response to negotiations, the labor committee does not have the final say, council does. He further advised he realizes the traffic flow is a

problem, but most of the people sitting on the council were not involved in the project. Hopefully, the new bridge will help. Mr. Williams stated the problem is at the light at Corunna Avenue. Since no one can turn right at the light, the people, who want to turn right, have to sit and wait at the bridge, and a new bridge will not alleviate the traffic flow problem. Mr. Williams suggested getting the Michigan Department of Transportation to do a traffic study that is accurate. He also suggested to council that they get more involved in the economic development of the city and leave the petty issues to the labor commission because the city has bigger eggs to fry. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan stated the city does have a lot of eggs to fry and no frying pan to put the eggs in because the city is financially in a bind. Mr. Williams stated then why does the city continue to give pay raises if the city is in a financial bind. When someone's home budget gets in a bind, the person starts to cut and sometimes the cut might hurt, but the budget will balance, and there will not be a deficit or any pain and agony where the money will come from. He further stated he was not saying the people were not qualified or not worthy, but he wishes he could go to his boss and ask for a five or six percent raise. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan advised Mr. Williams that he was not aware of the figures that the council had. Mr. Williams advised he was aware of the figures. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan asked if anyone else on the council or if the city manager wanted to make a comment. Joe Sawyer advised the city staff has talked to the state about the traffic flow problem, and the state knows the city is not happy. The state has advised that when the bridge is redone to four lanes and striped to three, this will allow people to turn onto Mack Street, which should help with some of the traffic backup at the bridge. Mr. Sawyer further advised once the bridge is done, the state will look at the timing of the light, but he does not know if this will make a difference. He would be lying if he stated he was comfortable that these two issues would alleviate the traffic flow problem.

Mr. Sawyer advised he noticed that the agenda approval was not part of the agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan asked council to entertain a motion to add Agenda Approval to the agenda. Mehig moved, Jessen seconded to approve the agenda with the deletion of Item No. 2) Consider Override of Mayor's Veto and Item No. 3) Consider 2002/2003 Appropriation of Required Monies for Police Chief, Clerk, and Treasurer's Contracts. Councilperson Johnson asked why item numbers two and three were being deleted. Councilperson Mehig advised item number one would explain the reason for the deletion.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Jessen, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER AMENDMENT #3 TO RULES OF PROCEDURE: Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan asked the city manager to explain the amendment. Mr. Sawyer stated there are some procedural issues and problems so he drafted an amendment to the Rules of Procedure in order to make the rules more clear and to avoid the same situation from happening again. This is part of the reason for removing item number two and three. He further stated there are some procedural issues that need to be clarified and fixed, and the goal of this council is to conduct business and not have procedural battles at every meeting for the next century.

The city council has more important things to do with its time. He also stated until the latest charter amendment there was no requirement for the mayor to state a reason for a veto. Even though the charter change requires the mayor to give a reason for the veto, there is no requirement that council has to like the reason, but council has the option to override the veto. Mr. Sawyer advised the Rules of Procedure state the recommendations of the labor committee are to go to the Committee of the Whole, but the rules can be waived by a majority vote at any time. He further advised councilpersons have an obligation to object to the rules being violated when the violation occurs if they feel the rules are being violated. The rules are like the charter, which can be read a dozen different ways. Mr. Sawyer reminded council the city is not on a line item budget because money is not appropriated line item by line item. The city has departmental and fund appropriations. Mr. Sawyer explained the General Fund is a departmental appropriation and anything outside of the General Fund is just a fund appropriation. The departments do not mean anything outside of the General Fund, but in the General Fund they do. Mr. Sawyer stated if money is not appropriated for, then a vote on that issue could not be taken. He further stated it could be argued that the mayor has the right to vote because it was an expenditure vote, but on the other hand, it could be argued that the vote in question was improper because the city charter does not allow council to bring forth a question for a vote if money is not appropriated. He also stated if council wants to get into procedural battles, everyone including the citizens of the city would lose. This is the purpose for the Rules of Procedure. Mr. Sawyer read amendment number three. He advised the intent of the amendment is not to try to find ways to keep the mayor from voting. The main situation that he is trying to avoid is for council to approve an expenditure on a tie vote, and then when it comes to appropriating money to pay for the expenditure, there are not four votes to appropriate the money. He further advised then there will be a fund deficit, and the city will have to report to the State of Michigan that the reason the city has a fund deficit was because council voted for an expenditure that they refused to pay for. Councilperson Jessen asked if the money was already in place for the contracts. Mr. Sawyer advised yes, but in a different department. Councilperson Jessen asked which department. Mr. Sawyer advised the money was in the council department. Councilperson Jessen stated he was confused. If the city has the money, then why does the money have to be appropriated. Mr. Sawyer advised because the money has to be moved from one department to another. Councilperson Jessen stated then this did not have anything to do with the mayor breaking the tie vote. Mr. Sawyer advised the purpose is to avoid a fund deficit with the State of Michigan, and he cannot make the amendment any clearer. He further advised the mayor understands the amendment because he spent three hours in the past few days talking to him about it. Councilperson Johnson asked why was this was not brought to the council the night of contract negotiations or to the labor committee when they met. Now, this has to be taken to the Committee of the Whole and asked why wait until all is said and done before council was told. Mr. Sawyer advised in the past, council has always had a six to zero vote on unappropriated expenditures, but this time, he had to figure out how to pay for the contracts. Council wants to approve the contracts but did not authorize the money to pay the contracts. He further advised there is a big issue out there dealing with the contracts, which is a different issue. Right now, council is trying to fix the procedure. Councilperson Jessen stated he did not think anything should be fixed until everyone is

here. Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to add Amendment Number Three, Unappropriated Expenditures and Obligations, to the Rules of Procedure. Councilperson Jessen stated again that he did not think the council should be making any decisions until everybody is here. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan advised everybody that can vote is here. Councilperson Jessen stated unless there is a tie. He further stated he suspected this was done purposely. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan asked Councilperson Jessen if he thought this situation was done purposely. Councilperson Jessen advised yes, and he was not singling anybody out, but he suspects this is why this was done in a big hurry because everybody knew the mayor was out of town. Mehigh moved to call for a vote to end discussion.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Roll call vote

Yes: Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: Jessen, Johnson.

Motion CARRIED

**CONSIDER 2001/2002 BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR CEMETERY, CITY COUNCIL, CITY SERVICES, MITCHELL FIELDS AND TREASURER DEPARTMENTS:** Mr.

Sawyer explained the reasons behind the amendments. Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION 06-27-02-01**

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2001/2002 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, The City Council of the City of Corunna desires to Amend the 2001/2002 Budget to Alter the Original Appropriation and Adjust Departmental Expenditures within the Altered General Fund Appropriation;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the budget for the City fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001 after recommendation by the City Manager be amended by the City Council as described as follows:

**General Fund Expenditures:**

<b><u>Dept. #</u></b>	<b><u>Dept. Name</u></b>	<b><u>FROM:</u></b>	<b><u>TO:</u></b>
101	City Council	\$18,881	\$19,381
253	City Treasurer	\$68,566	\$65,566
461	Mitchell Fields	\$8,320	\$7,320
750	City Services	\$200,094	\$203,594

**BE IT**, the same is hereby adopted, and the amount therein provided as recommended; appropriations are hereby appropriated according to the departmental totals.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, to amend the following fund budgets:

<b><u>Fund. #</u></b>	<b><u>Fund. Name</u></b>	<b><u>FROM:</u></b>	<b><u>TO:</u></b>
209	Cemetery	\$33,500	\$37,000

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Jessen, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:** Mr. Sawyer advised the mayor has requested that the clerk and police chief contracts be added to the Monday council agenda. He further advised the mayor has requested a 6:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole meeting prior to the regular 7:00 p.m. council meeting.

**ADJOURN:** Jessen moved, Mehig seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Runyan, Mehig, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 6:50 p.m.

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LARRY RUNYAN, MAYOR PRO-TEM

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YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK